

Chitas for Monday, Parshas Vayigash Fifth Day of Chanukah Chof-Tes Kislev, 5785

**For the safety and security of the Yidden in Eretz Yisrael
and the success of the soldiers fighting for its protection**

לעילוי נשמת ר' יוסף בנימין בן ר' מנשה קאלטמאן
~ by Rabbi Aryeh & Esther Kaltmann ~

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Bizchus Refuah Shleima Bikarov for

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Mazel Tov **to the Yarmush Family** (shluchim in Bellingham, WA)
on the birth of a baby boy
~ Erev Shabbos, Chof-Vov Kislev ~
Sheyegadluhu L'Torah, L'Chuppah, Ul'Maasim Tovim!

Mazel Tov **Major Chanoch Eliyahu Lezell** (Shliach in Duxbury, MA)
~ 8th birthday Chof-Ches Kislev ~
Shnas Bracha Vehatzlacha!

Mazel Tov **Private Ezriel Bonnardel** (Miami, Florida)
~ 6th birthday Chof-Tes Kislev ~
Shnas Bracha Vehatzlacha!

CHUMASH :: Parshas Vayigash - Sheini with Rashi

Yehuda is arguing with the ruler of Mitzrayim, who is really Yosef, telling him that he shouldn't keep Benjamin.

Yehuda continued his argument: He said, "If we go back and my father sees that we didn't bring Benjamin, he will die, and we will be the ones who caused it to happen!"

"I personally promised to make sure Benjamin comes home, and if he doesn't, I won't be with my father in *Olam Hazei* or *Olam Haba*!"

"So please, let me be your servant, instead of Benjamin. I will do a better job than him anyhow! Just please, don't make me go back without Benjamin — I don't want to see what would happen to my father."

When Yosef heard that, he was sure that his brothers had all done *teshuvah*, and knew that now was the time to tell them who he was. But he didn't want them to be embarrassed, so he told all of the servants to go out of the room. Yosef started to cry so loudly that everyone could hear — even the people in the other room!

Yosef said to his brothers, in *Lashon Kodesh*, “I am Yosef. You thought I died because you couldn't find me. Really, I was alive the whole time! Our father Yaakov was sad for all of these years, because Hashem only makes a person forget someone who passed away! It's a *neis* that he is still alive if he was crying so long!”

The brothers were so embarrassed they didn't answer. They moved away because they were so ashamed.

Yosef then said in a softer voice, “Please come close and see that I am a Yid too. I am Yosef your brother, that you sold to be a slave in Mitzrayim. But don't feel bad about it, because it is HASHEM Who wanted me to be here so I could give you food. The hunger has already lasted for two years, but there are still five years left! Hashem sent me here to make sure you have food.”

TEHILLIM :: 140 - 144

Today's *kapitelach* are *Kuf-Mem* to *Kuf-Mem-Daled*.

One of the most important jobs for a soldier in *Tzivos Hashem* is to win over our *Yetzer Hara*.

But that can be so hard! Our *Yetzer Hara* is sneaky and tricky and convinces us to do the wrong thing!

In today's *Tehillim*, we see one of the best ways of dealing with our *Yetzer Hara*!

Dovid Hamelech says, in *Kapitel Kuf-Mem*: “***Chaltzeini Hashem Me'Adam Ra!***” “Hashem, save me from a not-good person!”

What not-good person are we talking about? One meaning is the *Yetzer Hara* himself!

When we are having trouble with our *Yetzer Hara*, we shouldn't forget to ask Hashem to help us! Of course Hashem will help us, and we will be able to do our job well!

See rally for children, 5th night of Chanukah 5747

TANYA :: Likutei Amarim Perek Daled

We learned that Hashem gave the *neshama* the *Levushim*, which it can use for learning Torah and doing *mitzvos*, which connect a Yid, together with all of his *kochos*, with Hashem!

This helps us understand the *Mishnah* in *Pirkei Avos*, which tells us how important it is to grab every chance to do a *mitzvah*: The *Mishnah* says that one chance to do a *mitzvah* in this world is better than EVERYTHING a *neshama* can get in *Olam Haba*!

We now understand this *Mishnah*, because we know how a *mitzvah* makes us one with Hashem, and a *mitzvah* can only be done here, in *Olam Haze*h!

But aren't the *mitzvos* all in *Gashmius*? How can we say it's so close to Hashem?

It's true that the *mitzvos* are wearing “clothes” of *Gashmius*, but that doesn't make a difference! We can understand why with a *mashal*:

Let's say someone wants to hug another person. It doesn't matter if that person is wearing a shirt, or a coat, or a sweater! The main thing is the hug, it doesn't matter how many layers that person is wearing. You won't

say, “I just hugged my friend’s sweater!” You know that you hugged your friend!

When we do a *mitzvah*, it’s like a hug with Hashem! The *gashmius* things we use to do the *mitzvah* are like Hashem’s “clothes.” So even though Hashem is “wearing” all of these “clothes,” when we do *mitzvos*, we are still hugging Hashem!

And not only that, Hashem is hugging us too! (We know this from a *posuk*, “*Viyemincha Techabkeini*” — Hashem’s right hand, which *Chassidus* teaches means Torah, hugs us!)

HAYOM YOM :: Chof-Tes Kislev

We learned yesterday about the “Latkes Ovent” which the Rebbeim made. The Rebbe learns from there that it is important to make gatherings for children, and to speak there about the nissim of Chanukah! In today’s Hayom Yom, we learn (in very short) about the neis of Chanukah.

The Yidden in the time of the Greeks did many *aveiros*. They spent a lot of time with the Greeks, learning all about how they did things, not keeping Shabbos or *Yom Tov*, not eating kosher, and not keeping *Taharas Hamishpacha*.

The punishment for this was that Hashem made the *Beis Hamikdash* become full of *tumah* and idols, and many Yidden died or became slaves.

But because the Yidden did *teshuvah* and had *Mesiras Nefesh*, Hashem made the *neis* of Chanukah!

Today’s Hayom Yom was a summary of the story of Chanukah, which the Frierdiker Rebbe said during a Purim Farbrengen in Tof-Shin-Alef, where he spoke at length about the stories of Purim and Chanukah, and horaos we learn from them. You can see the longer version of the story, in the words of the Frierdiker Rebbe, here (translated into English; see sections 2–5)

SEFER HAMITZVOS :: Shiur #279 - Mitzvas Asei #236

Today we will learn the same *mitzvah* again (*Mitzvas Asei #236*)! If a person hurts someone else, he has to make up for what he did by paying him for the five kinds of things he damaged: That now he is worth less money because he is handicapped, that it hurt him, for the doctor bills, for the time he couldn’t work, and that he was embarrassed. A *Beis Din* decides how much money needs to be paid for each of these things.

RAMBAM :: Hilchos Shecheinim

In today’s Rambam, we learn about how to be a good neighbor according to Torah.

In **Perek Zayin**, we learn about a person’s right to have a window. We can’t tell another person to block off his window so he won’t look at us, if he had his window there first. We also can’t block his window by building a wall of our house too close.

Perek Ches teaches us about when a person can build something that reaches out over his neighbor’s yard, like a porch. If his neighbor knew about it and didn’t stop him, the neighbor can’t change his mind later. But building a *sukkah* doesn’t prove anything, unless it stays up for a whole month after *Sukkos*, because everyone knows that a *sukkah* isn’t meant to stay!

In **Perek Tes**, the Rambam tells us when we need to leave extra space to make sure we don’t ruin something belonging to our neighbor. For example, if we build a tub for laundry, we have to build a strong one, and at

least 3 *tefachim* away from our neighbor's wall, so that the water won't leak out and ruin his wall.

RAMBAM– PEREK ECHAD :: Hilchos Parah Adumah - Perek Yud-Gimmel

This *perek* teaches us about the extra rules of *tumah* and *tahara* we have with things used for the *Mei Nidah*.

INYANA D'YOMA :: Chanukah

Today is a Hillel day of Chanukah!

Did you know that Hillel and Shamai had a *machlokes* about how to light the *Menorah*? Shamai said that we should start with 8 candles on the first night, and light one less each night, until we light one the last night. Hillel said we should do it the way we do it nowadays — start with one and light one more each night.

So let's see:

NIGHT #	HILLEL	SHAMAI
1	1 candle	8 candles
2	2 candles	7 candles
3	3 candles	6 candles
4	4 candles	5 candles
5	5 candles	4 candles
6	6 candles	3 candles
7	7 candles	2 candles
8	8 candles	1 candle

The first night that Hillel says to light MORE candles than Shamai is the FIFTH night! That's today!

Shamai teaches us about being strict in Torah things. We should look at things that aren't right and try to stop them. Hillel teaches us about looking for GOOD things, and trying to do them more.

That's the lesson from today, to make sure we do more of good things, and get the world ready for *Moshiach*!

See rally 5th night of Chanukah 5746

TEFILLAH :: Birchas Kohanim and Eilu Devarim

After we say the *Birchos HaTorah*, thanking Hashem for this special gift, we actually SAY words of Torah!

First we say a part of *Torah Shebichsav*, and then a piece of *Torah Shebaal Peh*. From *Torah Shebichsav* we say *Birchas Kohanim*, which comes from *Parshas Naso*, and for *Torah Shebaal Peh* we say the *Mishnah* of *Eilu Devarim* which comes from *Mesechta Pe'ah*.

One of the reasons why *Birchas Kohanim* was chosen is because it is a good preparation for *davening*. In *Shemoneh Esrei*, the main part of *tefillah*, we are going to ask Hashem for many *brachos*. *Birchas Kohanim* is a general *bracha* which includes all of these *brachos* that we are about to ask for.

The *Mishnah* of *Eilu Devarim* seems to have been chosen because it mentions many *mitzvos* that we do on a regular basis. It includes *mitzvos* that are *Bein Adam Lamakom* (*mitzvos* we do directly with Hashem) and *mitzvos Bein Adam Lachaveiro* (*mitzvos* that help other people), and we see the *brachos* from these *mitzvos* even in *Olam Haze*h!

This is the end of *Birchos Hashachar*. We have thanked Hashem for the wonderful things He gives us every day, and prepared for the connection our *neschama* will make with Hashem during *davening*.

See also *Likutei Sichos* 39, p. 376

HALACHOS HATZRICHOS :: Milchigs on Chanukah

Some people have a *minhag* to eat foods made out of milk or cheese on Chanukah. We do this to remember the *neis* that happened with Yehudis and the cheese:

Yehudis, the daughter of Yochanan *Kohen Gadol*, was very brave. She thought of a plan to save the Yidden of her city. She went out to the Greek general, bringing him a present of very salty cheese. He was very happy, and let her feed him a lot of it. Then the general was very thirsty, so Yehudis gave him lots of strong wine. The wine made him so drunk, he fell asleep! Yehudis pulled out his sword and chopped off his head.

When the soldiers found out that their general was dead, they were so scared that they all ran away! The Yidden were saved.

To remember this *neis*, we also eat *milchig* foods on Chanukah.

See *Shevach Hamoadim*, *Kitzur Hilchos Chanukah*

GEULAH U'MOSHIACH :: Making Eretz Yisroel Bigger

We learned that to deserve that Eretz Yisroel will become bigger when *Moshiach* comes, we need to add something MORE in our *Avodah* nowadays.

What do we do? We need to make our *Ruchnius* Eretz Yisroel bigger! Our *Ruchnius* Eretz Yisroel is doing *mitzvos* during *Golus*. We make it bigger by doing even MORE than the strict *halacha*! Doing more than what we need to is called going “*Lifnim Mishuras Hadin*,” further than the *halacha* says we have to.

This is something that has a special connection to Chanukah!

According to *halacha*, did you know how many candles we need to light each night of Chanukah? Only ONE, and only one person in the family needs to light it.

But the Rama writes that it is a “*minhag poshut*,” an accepted *minhag*, for ALL Yidden to do this *mitzvah* in the best way possible! Even Yidden who usually aren’t so careful to do everything in the best way or to do things *Lifnim Mishuras Hadin*, light the *menorah* in a way of *Mehadrin Min Hamehadrin*, the very best way! We all light one more candle each night of Chanukah, and have many *menorahs* in every home!

This shows us that even if we aren’t doing everything right, we can still do *Lifnim Mishuras Hadin*, and add more than what we need to do. This will be a good preparation for when Hashem will add more land to Eretz Yisroel in the time of the *Geulah*!

See *Likutei Sichos chelek Chof*, *sicha of Motzei Shabbos Parshas Chayei Sarah* 5738, p. 345

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